



## Deciding Which Satellite to Access

NOAA's CoastWatch Program makes data available from a variety of sensors and satellites. Deciding which satellite data to download depends on the type of information that is needed. The three most common are those that show:

- sea surface temperature,
- ocean color, or
- surface winds.

There are many uses for each type of image. Temperature images for instance, are used to locate fishing spots and for forecasting weather. Ocean color images help scientists track changes in the ocean, and sea surface wind images are used primarily by meteorologists and boaters. Each image is displayed in near real time, which means the image is approximately 2 to 4 hours old.



# CoastWatch

Bringing satellite images and data to your computer



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<http://coastwatch.noaa.gov>

# COASTWATCH

BRINGING SATELLITE IMAGES AND DATA TO YOUR COMPUTER



Satellites orbiting the Earth send data back to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's CoastWatch program "reads" or processes this raw data so that others may use it.

The resulting images are more than beautiful pictures from outer space. These images help meteorologists predict weather, fishermen locate fish, and scientists track oil spills and red tide events. The audience for satellite imagery is growing, thanks in large part to the growth of powerful personal computers and increasing Internet access. Today sailors and commercial shipping pilots log on to check sea surface winds, and educators from middle school to college use CoastWatch images to introduce students to the world as seen from space.

## Technical information for the satellites and the images.

Satellite	Orbit	Sensor	Resolution	Product	Images per Day*
NOAA POES	Polar	AVHRR	1 - 4 km	Sea Surface Temperature	4
NOAA GOES	Geostationary	Imager	6 km	Sea Surface Temperature	8
NASA Terra and Aqua	Polar	MODIS	1 km	Chlorophyll-a, Sea Surface Temperature	4
OrbImage OrbView-2	Polar	SeaWiFS	1 km	Chlorophyll-a, Turbidity	1
NASA Quikscat	Polar	SeaWinds	25 km	Sea Surface Winds	2
ESA ERS-2	Polar	AMI	25 km	Sea Surface Winds	2
DOD DMSP	Polar	SSM/I	50 km	Sea Surface Winds	6

\*Over same geographic region

## To Preview the Satellite Imagery, Visit <http://coastwatch.noaa.gov>

To see examples of satellite images, visit the CoastWatch homepage. If you would like to download a near real-time image there is no charge, but you must first register with the service and receive a password to access the site. The registration form takes a couple of minutes to complete. You should receive confirmation shortly after registration via email.

## To get data for your area

The importance of a data set can vary according to the regions of the country. El Niño related information, for instance, is more relevant to West Coast users. For this reason, and to help the user efficiently find the data sets he requires, the site is divided into the following regions.

### CoastWatch Program

Alaska

Caribbean

Central Pacific

Great Lakes

Gulf of Mexico

Northeast

Southeast

West Coast

<http://coastwatch.noaa.gov>

<http://cwatch.arh.noaa.gov:8080>

<http://cwcaribbean.aoml.noaa.gov>

<http://coastwatch.nmfs.hawaii.edu>

<http://coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov>

[http://conch.ssc.nmfs.gov/cwatch/  
home\\_page.html](http://conch.ssc.nmfs.gov/cwatch/home_page.html)

<http://narwhal.gso.uri.edu/>

<http://www.bea.nmfs.gov>

<http://cwatchwc.ucsd.edu>

